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# NOTES FROM THE MEDICAL PRESS

IN CHARGE OF

ELIZABETH ROBINSON SCOVIL



THE TREATMENT OF EPISTAXIS.—The *Medical Record* quoting from *Nouveanst Remides*, says: Mendini recommends the introduction into the bleeding nasal passage of a tampon soaked with one part of a 1-1000 adrenalin solution and ten parts of salt solution; if this does not control the hæmorrhage the passage must be packed with strips of gauze. In most cases this will be sufficient and it is rarely necessary to place a tampon in the posterior nares. In removing the tampons it is advisable, after the first few strips have been taken out, to drop into the nostril a small quantity of a solution composed of cocaine hydrochlorate one-fifth, 1-1000 adrenalin solution one, and distilled water ten. The vasoconstriction caused by this application produces enough shrinkage of the nasal mucosa to permit the tampon to be removed *in toto* without difficulty.

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THE USE OF OIL ENEMATA FOR CHRONIC CONSTIPATION IN INFANTS.—The *Medical Record*, in an abstract of a paper in *Deutsche Mediscinische Wochenschrift*, says: Wunsch speaks highly of the use of injections of olive oil as a means of securing a cure in cases of obstinate constipation in nursing infants. The causes of the condition are numerous, but frequently in spite of all possible attention to the mother's diet, the hygiene of the infant's anus, etc., and the application of the customary remedies, including ordinary enemata, suppositories, abdominal massage, laxative drugs, etc., attempts to cure the difficulty are ineffectual. In these cases the use of an enema of olive oil repeated about every other day for a certain length of time may bring about a normal activity of the bowels. In illustration the author describes a case which had baffled all other means of treatment but remained permanently cured after eight injections of olive oil.

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MOIST GAUZE DRESSING.—The *Indian Medical Record* says: Experiments by Dr. Noetzels have demonstrated what is well known

o surgeons—that the secretions of a wound are drawn up into a moist dressing better than into a dry one. In Dr. Noetzel's experiments virulent anthrax bacilli placed upon an artificial wound in rabbits were absorbed into moist dressings and the infection of the animals was prevented. While both moist and dry dressings were effective in the destruction of germ life, the germs were drawn up into the outer layers of moist gauze, while they were found only in the layers closest to the wound in the dry dressings.

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NOCTURNAL ENURESIS.—The *New York Medical Journal*, quoting from *The Practitioner*, says: De Boinville concludes that this condition commonly occurs in weak, excitable children. It is found among all classes, is more common in boys than in girls, while in adults it is more common among women. It is often associated with a local irritative process, such as thread worms in the rectum, and is more frequent in those who lie on the back during sleep. It may be a symptom of organic disease of a serious nature.

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DIARRHŒAS IN CHILDREN.—The *Journal of the American Medical Association* says: In outlining the course of treatment of diarrhœas in children J. H. Buffum, in *Vermont Medical Monthly*, states that in a general way all the infectious diarrhœas of childhood should be treated in a similar manner. The first essential is cleanliness, together with a cool, quiet room, and an abundance of fresh air. Early in the disease all food, even breast milk, should be withheld. During the first twenty-four hours nothing should be given except a little cold boiled water, with the addition rarely, in cases of great prostration, of a little brandy or whiskey. In some cases the stomach may be so irritable as to be unable to retain any substance, consequently it may be necessary to give stimulants hypodermically. If the case is seen sufficiently early, a dose of castor oil is recommended to clear the alimentary tract and, consequently, to shorten the course of the disease. When vomiting is severe, however, calomel in small doses is preferable. Irrigation of the bowels with a normal salt solution is of value, as it assists in the removal of toxic products from the intestines, and serves to quiet the thirst and to supply the necessary fluid to the tissues. The temperature of the fluid used should vary as indicated by the patient's condition. If the vomiting should con-

tinue beyond twenty-four hours, some authorities recommend washing out the stomach, and that this procedure be followed by administration of small doses of calomel. Hot packs are recommended in cases of prostration. In some cases the vomiting and purging may be so severe as to demand morphin and atropin hypodermically. When this is necessary he recommends morphin gr. 1-100, and atropin gr. 1-800, for a child 1 year of age. When, in the judgment of the physician, food can be borne by the stomach, Buffum recommends barley water or albumin water, together with beef, mutton or chicken broth, either administered alone or in combination. These feedings should be two or three hours apart, and in amount one-fourth to one-half the normal. Bismuth is recommended to allay the vomiting and the tenesmus, as it is both a sedative and an intestinal antiseptic. In children it should be given suspended in mucilage, or in older children it may be given in powder form. He does not think much of the intestinal antiseptics commonly recommended.

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WHOOPING COUGH.—Dr. Adolph Decker, of Chicago, writing in the *New York Medical Journal*, says: The best remedy is naphthalin. About half an ounce of naphthalin is put into a saucer and slowly heated by means of a small alcohol lamp; gas or kerosene may just as well be used, but care must be taken that the flame does not reach the powder itself. In about ten or fifteen minutes a white vapor is produced which, when inhaled, lessens the severity and the number of the attacks, and in some cases prevents them altogether for many hours. The patient must not be brought near the naphthalin, it is sufficient that he is in the same room. One or two applications in twenty-four hours will generally suffice. As an adjuvant a mixture containing belladonna and antipyrine is given internally. At the same time a bandage is put around the lower part of the chest as tight as the patient can stand it, but not so tight that it would interfere with the breathing. The general health of the patient must be looked to and a rational diet prescribed. But it is criminal to advise change of air, on account of the contagiousness and the grave nature of this disease.